



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

## **SECTOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 2015-2016**

### **AGRICULTURE**

USAID's partnership with the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) resulted in the following:

- USAID has helped 55,591 households through agricultural training and alternative development interventions in targeted areas.
- USAID support for farms and agribusinesses has resulted in \$30.55 million of sales.
- USAID has helped 254 agriculture-related enterprises.
- USAID has assisted 9,911 assisted farmers to grow high-value crops and earn higher incomes.
- USAID has helped to provide water to more than 38,000 hectares of farmland through the operationalization of 112 irrigation canals that cover 510.3 kilometers.

### **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

USAID's partnership with the Afghan government and the private sector resulted in the following:

- USAID supported Afghanistan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). USAID worked closely with the Afghan government and the private sector to guide Afghanistan through the lengthy, complex journey toward WTO Membership – a process that drives broad legal and institutional reforms to improve a country's business enabling environment and competitiveness.
- USAID is supporting the nationwide roll out of electronic payment of customs duties, called E-Pay, beginning with Kabul and Mazar-I Sharif in 2015 and expanding to other locations in June 2016.
- USAID helped more than 5,978 Afghan enterprises obtain over \$59 million in loans to expand their businesses. USAID also provided business development services to support the growth of 400 small-to-medium enterprises.
- USAID is currently assisting Ministry of Labor, Martyrs and Social Affairs (MoLSAMD) to implement Mobile Money salary payments to its 4,500 employees in Kabul. Mobile Money salary payment is in the works at the Ministry of Education (MoE) to pay teachers' salaries in Laghman and Nangahar provinces in the first quarter of 2017. USAID co-invested in 284 Public Private Alliances with manufacturing companies, totaling more than \$261 million. 87 percent of this funding was provided through in cash and in-kind investment by Afghan enterprises.
- International buyers placed \$4 million of orders at the USAID sponsored the Afghan Carpet Conference and Expo in Dubai, which was attended by 27 carpet exporters and 18 buyers from Europe and North America.
- USAID helped to place more than 20,000 Afghans in permanent jobs. USAID also organized job fairs in Mazar and Herat, which attracted 10,000 job seekers and more than 100 companies from the information and communications technology (ICT), construction, project management,

marketing, and agribusiness sectors. More than 600 job seekers found immediate employment through the fairs.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

USAID's partnership with the Afghan government resulted in the following:

- USAID is enhancing the ability of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), Afghanistan's national power utility, to implement power projects and collect revenue. With USAID support, DABS created their first Operations and Maintenance (O&M) plan for power generation, transmission and distribution and prepared a plan for an automated meter reading system.
- USAID is investing in a 10 megawatt (MW) solar power plant in Kandahar. DABS selected a private independent power producer to construct and operate the plant through a USAID-sponsored reverse auction. A power purchase agreement between that firm and DABS will be signed soon. This project will serve as a model for attracting future private investment in Afghanistan's energy sector, particularly renewable energy.
- In January and February 2016, insurgents severely damaged a number of transmission towers that import power from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. Showing their prowess in operations and maintenance and without international assistance or funding, DABS made emergency repairs to the transmission lines within 24 hours in all cases except one, where more time was needed for the Afghan Army to secure the area. To compensate for the lost power, DABS dispatched power from Tarakhil Power Plant, at nearly full capacity, to keep the lights on in Kabul.
- USAID is supporting DABS to connect power from Kabul to Kandahar by helping DABS to handle the procurement of construction contracts to build more than 500 kilometers of transmission lines and seven substations. The upper half of the line, extending 110 kilometers from Kabul to the city of Ghazni, is nearing an on-time completion by December 2016. The entire \$407 million project is scheduled to be completed in 2019. The transmission line will provide access to sustainable power to more than one million Afghans in Kandahar and areas along the Highway 1 economic corridor.
- With USAID assistance, DABS installed and commissioned a third turbine generator at Kajaki Dam in October 2016. The addition of the 18.5 MW turbine has boosted the generation capacity of Kajaki Dam from 32 MW to more than 50 MW, enabling DABS to provide more affordable electricity to nearly one million Afghans in Helmand and Kandahar provinces.
- USAID completed the final stretch (remaining 25 kilometers) of the 101-kilometer Gardez-Khost highway in December 2015. This new highway is promoting economic growth along the corridor and greatly improving the lives of many communities along the way by linking villages to schools and health clinics.
- USAID is building a 200-bed women's dormitory for the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF), a proven way to increase young women's access to quality higher education. The new facility is being designed currently and initial construction has begun.
- Based on international best practices, USAID is helping the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW) to improve its ability to operate and maintain Afghanistan's system of roads. In June 2016, a consortium of key Afghan stakeholder ministries officially endorsed the USAID-supported initiative to create three new institutions to manage Afghanistan's road sector, including a Road Authority, a Road Fund, and a Transportation Institute. Once established, the Afghan government will be better equipped to manage, fund, and plan roads operations and maintenance.

## DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

USAID's partnership with the Afghan government and civil society resulted in the following:

- USAID supports the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC), the lead anti-corruption body in Afghanistan, to conduct vulnerability to corruption assessments, make recommendations for reform and monitor the implementation of recommendations. In June 2016, the MEC completed a comprehensive anti-corruption assessment of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in June 2016. The Ministry is now developing an anti-corruption strategy based on the MEC's study that will serve as a model for other Ministries.
- In the lead-up to the October 2016 Brussels Conference, USAID provided technical support to the High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption to assist the five-revenue generating ministries (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, and Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation) to develop anti-corruption action plans. These plans will guide efforts to increase revenue and reduce corruption over the coming year and each ministry will be responsible to report to the public on progress.
- With USAID support, the third Afghanistan-Pakistan Civil Society Conference was held in Islamabad in January 2015, which enabled civil society members from both countries to identify opportunities for bilateral cooperation and trust building and to prioritize short-term and long-term measures on priority issues by developing a joint action plan.
- USAID helped to develop the first Afghanistan National Youth Policy.
- USAID continues to fund the longest running, continuous annual nationwide public opinion perception survey in Afghanistan since 2004.
- USAID supported the Special Election Reform Commission (SERC) in its efforts to identify key shortcomings in the credibility of past elections and to formulate a comprehensive set of reform recommendations for the National Unity Government.
- USAID worked with the General Directorate of Municipal Affairs to establish a National Municipal Network, the first step towards the establishment of a National Mayor's Association and towards enhancing oversight mechanisms in 20 partner municipalities. This effort is now being replicated at the provincial level.
- USAID supported the discussion, deliberation and voting on 10 key draft laws, treaties and agreements, including the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA), the ministerial confirmation process, National Budget 1394, the Banking Law, the Tax Management Law, the Anti-Money Laundering Law, and the Countering the Finance of Terrorism Law.
- USAID enabled the Provincial Women's Policy Advocacy Groups (PWAGs) to build strategic alliances and partnerships with key institutions, such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, the Women's Commission of Parliament, and provincial government leaders, to promote women's participation in government and decision making processes.
- USAID supported the creation of the Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus (PACC), resulting in anti-corruption pledges from President Ghani, CEO Abdullah, and 24 of 25 government ministers as well as a Whistleblowers Protection Law that will be submitted to parliament.
- USAID, in conjunction with the Afghan government, developed Provincial Anti-Corruption Working Groups in Herat and Balkh; an effort that USAID plans to replicate in Kandahar, Helmand, Nimroz, Samangan, Logar and other provinces.

- In coordination with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, USAID developed the Provincial Planning Guidelines, and conducted Provincial Budgeting Training for participants from 34 provinces. USAID assisted 33 municipalities in budget preparation, conducting budget hearings and processing budgets through the official approval process. USAID also developed capacity building plans for 20 municipalities and for the Municipal Advisory Boards.
- USAID in cooperation with the Afghan government supported the provision of immediate assistance packages to 4,122 families affected by the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan.

## HEALTH

USAID's partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) resulted in the following:

- USAID provided high level technical support to the MoPH to develop the National Health Strategy 2016-2020, which lays out the future trajectory for health programming in the country. USAID, in support of global donor agreements, joined with Canada and the European Union in 2015, to pool funding under the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund to be managed by the World Bank under SEHAT (System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition) with the aim to strengthen the MoPH to integrate their health services contracting unit and develop uniform performance monitoring and contracting management system.
- More than 2,000 facilities are supported nationally through the World Bank administered SEHAT program, which provides basic primary health care to the country. By pooling donor resources, MoPH has centralized and strengthened efforts to contract out health service provision.
- USAID funded Afghanistan's first ever Demographic and Health Survey (AfDHS). The Key Indicator Report was published in August 2016, and the final report is due to be disseminated in January 2017. DHS provides the stakeholders with a baseline of high quality, reliable, nationally representative health, education, women's empowerment data for future planning. The results will be comparable to other countries worldwide.
- USAID expanded the Disease Early Warning System (DEWS) from 300 to more than 550 health facilities
- USAID supported the first joint Ministry of Education and MoPH public health campaign to reduce anemia among girls aged 10 to 19 in schools which was rolled out in 10 provinces and will be expanded to all 34 provinces.
- USAID's HEMAYAT, in partnership with Ministry of Public Health, has made substantial achievement towards increasing access, availability, and demand for high quality, equitable, gender sensitive family planning, maternal, newborn, and child health (FP/MNCH) services. The HEMAYAT project is mainly supporting the introduction and scale up of High Impact Interventions (HII), such as chlorhexidine (newborn umbilical cord care) and misoprostol (prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage), and long acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) to end preventable maternal and child deaths.
- USAID strengthened the Ministry of Public Health's stewardship role and ability to regulate and assure quality in the Afghan pharmaceutical system, through working closely with the National Medicines Health Products & Regulatory Authority, which was established by the Ministry of Public Health in April 2016. The aim of this Regulatory Authority is to improve the policies and regulations in order to increase access to quality medicines in Afghanistan.
- In May 2016, a \$75 million contract was awarded to implement the Initiative for Hygiene, Sanitation and Nutrition (IHSAN) project to support the Government of Afghanistan to improve the nutritional status of women of reproductive age, and children less than five years old.

- USAID provided technical support to MoPH to produce the third round of National Health Accounts (NHA), a tool that provides details on how health funds are spent. The third round of the NHA classifies health expenditures by scheme, agent, and provider of health service, and produces disease-specific accounts. This information will enable the government to take evidence-based decisions. For example, the third round of NHA reports a total health expenditure of nearly \$2 billion, which consists of five percent government expenditure, 14 percent donors, 73 percent out of pocket and eight percent non-discretionary funds.

## EDUCATION

USAID's partnership with the Afghan Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, and education institutions resulted in the following:

- Through the UNICEF Community-Based Education (CBE) program, USAID supported the establishment of 912 community based schools, ensuring 43,650 children have access to education and providing employment to 705 teachers. USAID supported the establishment of 71 Accelerated Learning Centers in four provinces, with 1,693 girls and 1,485 boys registered in four out of 13 provinces. USAID helped more than 2,000 girls to study in residential schools run by Aid Afghanistan for Education (AAE). Nearly 480 science, math teachers and lab technicians in remote schools in Khost, Badakhshan and Kandahar are applying knowledge and skills acquired through USAID training. Students in these schools have demonstrated a five percent increase in their average scores on physics, biology, chemistry and math.
- USAID trained 154,699 teachers through the In-Service Training package. 54,145 of those teachers (35percent) are female. USAID trained 17,184 school principals and administrators in School Management, 3,437 of those principals and administrators, 20 percent are female. USAID procured and distributed 35,122,121 textbooks. USAID furnished 24 schools with lab equipment. USAID trained 310, including 191 female, Science and Math teachers and 20 lab technicians, including six female lab technicians. USAID printed and distributed 6,000 training books to Math and Science teachers.
- USAID continued its support for the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF), the first private, independent, non-profit university in Afghanistan. AUAF graduated 60 MBA and 52 undergraduate students, raising the total number of AUAF graduates to 371 undergraduate and 96 graduate students. AUAF enrolled 60 females in their Nangarhar, Mazar, Herat and Kandahar Professional Development Institutes (PDI) offering internationally recognized certification programs in IT, accounting, project management, English language, and other essential fields. Through an agreement between USAID and the Department of State, 20 Afghan women are studying under scholarships at the American University of Central Asia and AUAF.
- USAID supported the design of 32 new, market oriented, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs at four Kabul based and regional universities. Overall, 11 universities are receiving technical and financial support from USAID's University Workforce Development Program (USWDP). Through USWDP, USAID is helping young men and women find jobs that match their skills by engaging potential employers through the organization of Public-Private Partnership events, seeking private sector commitment, conducting labor market surveys, and developing internship activities.
- In July 2016, USAID partnered with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) to help sustain a teacher apprenticeship program in Afghanistan for adolescent girls. The program will enable students to utilize their newly learned skills to move directly into careers as teachers, and educate the next generation of Afghan girls.

## GENDER

USAID's partnership with the Afghan government and civil society resulted in the following:

- In June 2016, USAID launched the Promote Scholarship Program, which will provide scholarships to 720 Afghan girls over the next five years. The scholarships will enable the participants to complete their Bachelor's degree at private universities in Afghanistan. Promote is USAID's flagship women's empowerment program in Afghanistan.
- In May 2016, USAID's Women's Right Groups and Coalitions (Musharikat) program hosted nearly 300 female civil-society representatives from 33 provinces for a national summit to identify issues preventing Afghan women from exercising their rights and fully participating in Afghan society. From these issues, summit delegates selected the final three highest-priority issues, formed broad coalitions, and developed initial action plans to tackle these key challenges which included access to education, violence against women, and access to economic opportunities.
- Since the launch of the Promote Women's Leadership Development program, 1500 young women have benefitted from leadership training, internships and mentoring.
- In June 2016, Women in Government and Women's Leadership Development interns started working at the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.
- In July of 2015, USAID and the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs, and Disabled (MoLSAMD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support President Ghani's job stimulus initiative through Women in the Economy (WIE). The partnership commits MoLSAMD to conduct outreach at provincial level to support WIE's internship/apprenticeship activity, which will place 7,500 women across Afghanistan in businesses as interns and apprentices. Between July and November, WIE placed 1601 interns and apprentices. This represents an average of 320 internships and apprenticeships a month across the country.